

In re Appl. No. 09/084,441 to Lin

~~68~~ 69. (Amended) A method [An apparatus] for ablating tissue, comprising:

E providing a basic laser having a pulsed output laser beam of a fundamental ultraviolet wavelength [within a range of 193-220 nm] of 193 nm exiting from an output window of said basic laser, and a repetition rate of 1 Hz to 1000 Hz; and

scanning [a scanner constructed and arranged to control] said pulsed output beam into a substantially overlapping pattern of beam pulses on said tissue such that adjacent ablation spots on a single ablation layer of said corneal tissue significantly overlap one another.

~~68~~ 70. (Amended) The method [apparatus] for ablating tissue according to claim ~~69~~ 68, wherein:

said substantially overlapping pattern of beam pulses has an orientation which is achieved using a randomized scanning of said pulsed output beam on said tissue.

~~68~~ 71. (Amended) The method [apparatus] for ablating tissue according to claim ~~69~~ 68, wherein:

said pulsed output laser beam has an energy level exiting from said output window of said basic laser of no greater than 10 mJ per pulse.

72. (Amended) The method [apparatus] for ablating tissue according to claim ~~69~~ 68, wherein:

said [scanner is constructed and arranged to overlap] scanning overlaps adjacent beam pulses corresponding to adjacent ablation spots on said single ablation layer by at least 50 percent.

~~68~~ 73. (Amended) The method [apparatus] for ablating tissue according to claim ~~69~~ 68, wherein:

E4 said basic laser is an excimer laser.